

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 ACDA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 /107 W

----- 124765

R 221050Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3463

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4916

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AO SF PINS PINT

SUBJ: CALL FOR PARLIAMENT TO DISCUSS ANGOLA INVOLVEMENT:
LIBERAL INTERESTS MAY SUFFER

1. COLIN EGLIN, PROGRESSIVE REFORM PARTY LEADER, CALLED ON
PRIME MINISTER VORSTER WEEKEND DEC. 20 TO CONVENE PARLIAMENT
EARLY FOR DISCUSSION OF ANGOLA SITUATION AND SOUTH AFRICAN
INTERESTS. HE SAID THAT PUBLIC WAS NOT FULLY INFORMED,
IMPORTANT INTERESTS ARE AT STAKE, AND NATION SHOULD FACE
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QUESTIONS WITH GREATER KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF

WHAT IS INVOLVED. (PARLIAMENT NOW SCHEDULED BEGIN REGULAR SESSION JAN. 23.) EGLIN THOUGHT THAT CURRENT TENSIONS ARE INJURIOUS TO LIBERAL AND ENLIGHTENED CAUSES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

2. WEEKEND EDITORIALS REFLECTED DISSATISFACTION WITH AMOUNT OF INFORMATION GOVERNMENT IS PROVIDING ABOUT EVENTS IN ANGOLA, ESPECIALLY SINCE CAPTURE OF FOUR SOLDIERS IS TAKEN AS CONFIRMATION OF SUBSTANTIAL INVOLVEMENT OF SOUTH AFRICAN REGULAR FORCES IN FIGHTING THERE. MIN DEF BOTHA'S SEVERAL STATEMENTS INTERPRETED AS ADDING LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE WHEN PUBLIC BUFFETED BY RUMOR AND FOREIGN REPORTS. THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRESS EXPRESSES GRAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE WISDOM OF ANY COMMITMENTS EXTENDING BEYOND THE ACTUAL BORDERS FOR WHICH SAG RESPONSIBLE. URGENT CALLS ISSUED FOR WEST AND PARTICULARLY US TO TAKE STRONGER ACTION PREVENTING SOVIET TAKE OVER IN ANGOLA. A COMMUNIST SUCCESS THERE IS SEEN LIKELY TO FORCE SOUTH AFRICANS "INTO THE LAAGER- UNIFYING WHITE ELEMENTS INTO ULTRA CONSERVATIVE DEFENSIVE ATTITUDE THAT WILL STALL PROGRESS ON SOCIAL ISSUES AND SHARPEN LIKELIHOOD OF SERIOUS INTERNAL CONFLICTS OVER THE LONGER RUN.
BOWDLER

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